

Violent Crime Victim Assistance Grantees Fiscal Year 2004
Office of Illinois Attorney General LISA MADIGAN
Champaign Press Conference: Program Descriptions

Grantees in Champaign, Coles, Crawford, Edgar, Effingham, Ford, Jasper, Lawrence, Richland and Vermilion Counties

Champaign County

1. A Woman's Fund, Inc.; Urbana, IL; \$24,000:

Founded in 1971 as a grass roots organization, this was the first domestic violence shelter in Illinois and is thought to be the oldest existing shelter in the nation. In 1974, services were expanded to assist victims of sexual assault, as well. The shelter has been through several transitions since first receiving funding from a VCVA grant in 1984. Services are available to all victims of family violence, including men, but for practical reasons male victims and their dependent children are sheltered at hotels/motels rather than at the shelter. Services provided include 24-hour shelter for victims and their dependent children, assistance obtaining orders of protection, legal advocacy, transportation, 24-hour crisis hotline, referrals, medical advocacy, group counseling for women and children, transitional assistance, individual counseling, community education, professional training and prevention programs.

2. Champaign County State's Attorney's Office; Urbana, IL; \$24,473:

This prosecutor-based victim/witness program was created in 1985 and it serves victims of violent crime in Champaign County. Services provided include case notification, criminal justice information, emotional support, trial information, community referrals, court advocacy and public education.

3. Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center; Urbana, IL; \$15,000:

This agency serves children and non-offending parents of sexually and seriously physically abused minors in the county. The program has been in existence since 2000 and is extremely well networked in the community. Services provided include coordinated interdisciplinary Victim Sensitive Interviews, case staffing, information, referrals, court advocacy and public education.

4. Family Service of Champaign County; Champaign, IL; \$23,000:

This comprehensive social service agency began providing services to victims of elder abuse and neglect with a grant from the VCVA program in 1987. Funding from the VCVA allows the agency to assist elderly victims that are not addressed by the Department on Aging's Elder Abuse Program. The following services are provided: case management, emotional support, financial counseling, well-being checks, assistance with orders of protection, crisis intervention and meals on wheels.

5. **Mental Health Center of Champaign County; Champaign, IL; \$21,500:**
This program was created in 1985 with VCVA funds, and it provides therapeutic services to victims of crime. Services provided include case management, issue counseling, legal advocacy, medical advocacy, social service advocacy and information/referrals.
6. **Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.; Champaign, IL; \$18,000:**
This program provides free legal assistance to victims of elder exploitation and abuse in a thirteen-county region. Because of VCVA funding, seniors are not responsible for the usual financial eligibility requirements. All legal services are free and available to senior victims. Additional services include consultation, information/referrals, community education and professional training.
7. **Champaign County CASA; Urbana, IL; \$8,000:**
The Champaign County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program is an agency of volunteers that act on behalf of abused, abandoned and neglected children involved in the juvenile court system. CASA volunteers work closely with the child and family, and bring independent assessment of the cases to the judge based upon what's best for the child. This program first received funding from the VCVA in 1999. In December of 2002, the agency became Guardian ad Litem for Champaign County. Services provided include medical advocacy, legal advocacy, social service advocacy, court assistance and community education.
8. **Illinois CASA Association; Urbana, IL; \$10,500:**
This organization was created in 1999 to give oversight and technical assistance to the 29 CASA programs statewide. Currently, services provided include: information and referrals; professional training; community awareness, guidance and supervision.

Coles County

1. **HOPE of East Central Illinois; Charleston, IL; \$23,190:**
Formerly the Coalition Against Domestic Violence, this program has been providing services to family violence victims in a seven-county area since 1979. HOPE first received a grant from the VCVA in 1987. Services include: 24-hour hotline, shelter, IDVA advocacy, issue counseling, information and referral, children's programs, public education, outreach and follow-up and transportation assistance.
2. **Coles County Mental Health; Mattoon, IL; \$26,460:**
The sexual assault treatment program (SATP) was created at the mental health center with VCVA funds in 1988. The program serves children and families that have been traumatized by sexual abuse. Services provided: individual counseling, group counseling, 24-hour hotline, family counseling, crisis intervention and information and referral.

3. **Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Service; Charleston, IL; \$22,421:**
Formerly known as Coles County Women Against Rape, this program was established in 1977. The program has been located in a residence hall at Eastern Illinois University; VCVA funding began in 1990. Services have expanded and include an extensive criteria for children, including educational programs for local schools, individual counseling, group counseling, medical advocacy, advocacy, 24-hour hotline and professional training.
4. **Coles County State's Attorney's Office; Charleston, IL; \$14,000:**
This prosecutor-based program serves crime victims in rural Coles County. Services include: case notification, case status information, restitution assistance, witness call/call off, community referrals, emotional support and court advocacy.
5. **Coles County CASA; Charleston, IL; \$8,500:**
This program was established in 1994 to assist children who had been abused, abandoned and neglected and become wards of the juvenile court system. Begun and run entirely by volunteers, the program did not seek outside funding from the VCVA until FY '96. Today, the program has 28 active CASAs and receives grants from the VCVA and National CASA. Services provided to children include: crisis intervention, legal advocacy, court assistance, information & referral, social service advocacy, community education and assistance with orders of protection.
6. **Children's Advocacy Center of East Central Illinois; Charleston, IL; \$8,500:**
Coles County Children's Advocacy center received a seven-month start-up grant from DCFS in December of 1999 and began providing services on June 1, 2000. In July of 2002, the agency incorporated as the Children's Advocacy Center of East Central IL and received an expansion grant to extend services to the six surrounding counties. Services include: crisis intervention, 24-hour hotline, medical advocacy, legal advocacy, social service advocacy, criminal justice information, information & referral, victim impact statements, crime victim compensation, professional training, community education prevention programs and multidisciplinary teams. The program has received funding from the VCVA since 2001.

Crawford County

1. **Crawford County State's Attorney's Office; Robinson, IL; \$14,250:**
This prosecutor-based victim/witness program serves crime victims from the far-eastern county of Crawford. The county has high unemployment, no public transportation and few social services. They applied for and received their first VCVA grant in 2002 to address the lack of services available to crime victims. Current service provisions include: emotional support, information and referral, assistance with orders of protection, case notification and criminal justice information.

Edgar County

1. **Human Resources Center of Edgar and Clark Counties; Paris, IL; \$24,278:**
This community mental health center began as an outreach clinic of Eastern Illinois Mental Health. In order to meet the needs of victims, HRCEC expanded their existing services by adding a Victims Assistance Program in 1989 with a grant from the Attorney General's office. Services provided include: community education, referrals, crisis intervention, issue/group/family counseling and professional training.

Effingham County

1. **Effingham County State's Attorney's Office; Effingham, IL; \$16,500:**
This prosecutor-based victim/witness program was begun with a grant from the Attorney General's office in 1996. The program provides service to victims/witnesses residing within Effingham County. The following services are provided: information and referral, case notification, criminal justice information, trial/hearing information, victim impact statements, emotional support, witness on call/call off and court advocacy.

Ford County

1. **Ford County State's Attorney's Office; Paxton, IL; \$19,000:**
This small prosecutor-based victim/witness program received its first VCVA grant in 1993. Ford County is a demographically large rural county with few social service agencies. Thus, the State's Attorney's office acts as the main conduit for most services. Current services include: information and referral, assistance with orders of protection, emotional support, advocacy, transportation, employer intersession, DUI Victim Impact Panels, restitution assistance and property return, criminal justice information, victim compensation information, witness on call/call off, case notification, case status, trial information and case disposition.

Jasper County

1. **Jasper County State's Attorney's Office; Newton, IL; \$15,500:**
This rural prosecutor-based victim/witness program was begun with a grant from the Attorney General's office in 1996. Services provided include: DUI Victim Impact Panels, restitution assistance and property return, criminal justice information, emotional support, assistance with orders of protection, victim compensation information, case notification, status and trial information.

Lawrence County

1. Lawrence County State's Attorney's Office; Lawrenceville, IL; \$21,000:

This prosecutor-based program serves crime victims in Lawrence County. They received their first VCVA grant in 1994. The program provides the following services: case notification, criminal justice information, case status, trial, & case disposition, victim compensation assistance, restitution assistance, orders of protection, transportation, victims impact statements, emotional support, information & referrals, court advocacy and prevention programs.

Richland County

1. Stopping Woman Abuse Now (SWAN); Olney, IL; \$26,700:

Swan began in 1981 as a grass roots organization designed to help battered women and children. Today, SWAN serves a nine-county area. Current services include: 24-hour hotline, emergency temporary shelter, orders of protection, transportation, IDVA advocacy, information/referrals, legal advocacy, medical advocacy, social service advocacy and abuser services.

2. Richland County State's Attorney's Office; Olney, IL; \$14,000:

In 1999, the Richland County State's Attorney was given their first grant to aid crime victims and witnesses. Services provided: case notification, criminal justice information, case status, trial information, information and referrals, emotional support and victims compensation information.

Vermilion County

1. Vermilion County State's Attorney's Office; Danville, IL; \$19,500:

This prosecutor-based program began offering services to crime victims and witnesses of Vermilion County in 1986. Services offered include: emotional support, information & referral, notification, employer intervention, transportation and community education.

2. Family Counseling Center of Catholic Social Service; Danville, IL; \$21,500:

This program is a branch office of Catholic Charities of the Peoria Diocese. They began providing counseling services to crime victims in 1985 and received their first VCVA grant in 1988. Services provided include individual counseling, information and referrals.

3. YWCA of Danville, IL; \$22,000:

Since 1983, this agency has provided services to victims of sexual assault and family violence. They received their first VCVA grant in 1985. Comprehensive services

include: 24-hour hotline and emergency response, counseling, medical and legal advocacy, childrens services, community education, information and referrals, emotional support and crisis intervention.

4. CRIS Senior Services; Danville, IL; \$23,487:

This comprehensive senior program was begun with a VCVA crime victims grant in 1986. The program has an extensive volunteer training program and works closely with other service providers to best assist seniors and their needs. Vermilion County has the second highest rate of seniors per capita in the state, so CRIS plays an integral part in the senior community. Services provided include system advocacy, information and referrals, outreach, emotional support, case information, community education and prevention and transportation.